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# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	91252817
Party	Plaintiff House of Kuipers, LLC
Correspondence Address	DANIEL M CISLO AND DAVID B SANDELANDS CISLO & THOMAS LLP 12100 WILSHIRE BLVD STE 1700 LOS ANGELES, CA 90025 UNITED STATES Primary Email: ttab@cislo.com Secondary Email(s): David@cislo.com, ksylvester@cislo.com 310-979-9190
Submission	Motion to Amend Pleading/Amended Pleading
Filer's Name	Katherine Bond
Filer's email	kbond@cislo.com, dan@cislo.com, ttab@cislo.com
Signature	/Katherine Bond/
Date	11/23/2020
Attachments	20201123 P Mtn. for Leave to Amend Notice of Opp and amedned Opp FINA L .pdf(172682 bytes ) Notice of Opposition Amended REDLINE w ExHIBIT A.pdf(2352911 bytes ) Amended Notice of Opp. w Exhibit A CLEAN VERSION.pdf(6226724 bytes )

# IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

HOUSE OF KUIPERS LLC, et al.,

Trademark: ZOX

Opposer,

Application No.: 88/228,839

-against-

Opposition No.: 91252817

JOHN ZOX, an individual

Applicant.

## MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AN AMENDED NOTICE OF OPPOSITION

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)(2) and Trademark Rule § 2.107

Opposer/Counterclaim Defendant House of Kuipers, LLC *et al.* ("Opposer") respectfully brings this motion seeking leave to amend its Notice of Opposition of Application Serial No.

88/228,839 (the "839 Application") filed by Applicant/Counterclaim Plaintiff, John Zox ("Applicant") for the standard character word mark "ZOX", in order to clarify the facts concerning Opposer's asserted fraud claim specifically, that Applicant had no *bona fide* use of the applied-for ZOX mark in commerce in connection with the goods identified in the use-based '839 Application, at the time the '839 Application was filed.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicant requests that the Board grant this motion. A clean and redlined copy of the proposed Amended Notice of Opposition is attached hereto.

## PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

Opposer filed its Notice of Opposition ("Notice") on December 10, 2019, opposing registration of the term "ZOX" for use in connection with all of the applied-for goods. The

Notice asserted three claims: (1) priority and likelihood of confusion, (2) dilution by blurring, and (3) fraud on the USPTO.

Applicant served his Answer and Counterclaim on March 19, 2020. The Counterclaim petitions to cancel Registration No. 4,465,691 for ZOX, Registration No. 4,759,961 for ZOXBOX, and Registration No. 5,233,845 for ZOX.

Opposer filed its Answer to the Counterclaim on May 22, 2020.

On June 17, 2020, Opposer filed a Notice of Change in ownership as to some of the registrations at issue in this matter.

Applicant filed an Opposition to the Notice in Change in Ownership on September 23, 2020 asserting the new owner of Opposer's registrations should be joined as a party and not substituted.

The proceeding is presently suspended pending the resolution of the motion to substitute.

## **LEGAL STANDARD**

When determining whether to permit a party to amend its pleading, the Board "freely give[s] leave [to amend] when justice so requires." See 37 C.F.R. § 2.107 and 37 C.F.R. § 2.115; Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2). Consequently, "the Board liberally grants leave to amend pleadings at any stage of a proceeding when justice so requires, unless entry of the proposed amendment would violate settled law or be prejudicial to the rights of the adverse party or parties." *Boral Ltd. v. FMC Corp.*, 59 U.S.P.Q.2d 1701, 1702 (T.T.A.B. 2000). Therefore, the Board must consider whether there is any undue prejudice to the nonmoving party and whether the amendment is legally sufficient. See *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962); *Am. Optical Corp. v. Am. Olean Tile Co., Inc.*, 168 USPQ 471, 473 (TTAB 1971).

### **ARGUMENT**

#### A. The proposed amendment is consistent with settled law.

Opposer's proposed amended Notice is consistent with settled law. A legally sufficient pleading of fraud requires allegations that Applicant knowingly made specific, false representations of material fact in connection with its application with the intent of obtaining (or maintaining) a registration to which it is otherwise not entitled. See *In re Bose Corp.*, 580 F.3d 1240, 91 USPQ2d 1938, 1942 (Fed. Cir. 2009). The proposed amendments to Opposer's Notice only clarifies and supports the already asserted claim of fraud. Upon information and belief, Applicant did not make a bona fide use of the applied-for ZOX mark in U.S. commerce in connection with the identified goods at the time the '839 Application was filed. If true, the subject application is void ab initio, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1051(a), and the application should be refused accordingly. Since filing the Notice, Opposer discovered most of the specimens provided to the Trademark Office were generated using "custom print" online services. With this motion, Opposer has provided "replicated" specimens using the generic letters "XYZ" and a circle design to demonstrate how some of the specimens were generated for the '839 Application. See Exhibit A. Images of memorabilia is also not use in commerce as required by Section 45 of the Trademark Act, 15 U.S.C. §1127. This is the exact type of behavior the Trademark Office's special task force (Specimen Protest Pilot Program), is attempting to stop; "...the most common suspicious specimen types were digitally altered images and labels being added to generic items". Early discovery has confirmed this position in that no documents have been produced showing even a single sale for one of the listed goods.

## B. The proposed amended Notice will not prejudice Applicant.

The second factor the Board considers in granting a motion such as this is whether or not the proposed amendment would prejudice the nonmoving party. In determining whether the other party would be prejudiced by allowance of the proposed amendment, the timing of the motion for leave to amend plays a large role. Black & Decker Corp. v. Emerson Electric Co., 84 USPQ2d 1482, 1486 (TTAB 2007). There are three main reasons why Applicant will not suffer any prejudice if this motion is granted. First, as stated above, this opposition proceeding is presently suspended and discovery is still ongoing. Opposer has served a first set of discovery on Applicant but Applicant has not propounded any discovery. Neither party has conducted any depositions. Thus, Opposer will not be prejudiced as it will have the full and complete opportunity to investigate and conduct discovery on Opposer's amended contentions. In fact, the Board has allowed amendments to pleadings at much later stages than that requested by Opposer. Focus 21 Int'l Inc. v. Pola Kasei Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha, 22 USPQ2d 1316, 1318 (TTAB 1992)(motion to amend filed prior to opening of petitioner's testimony period permitted). Second, Opposer is not expanding the scope of its claims but simply clarifying an existing claim that Applicant, failed to disclose facts to the Patent and Trademark Office, to procure a registration to which he was not entitled. Applicant will not suffer prejudice from allowing Opposer's additional facts because Applicant does not require discovery on his own alleged use of the mark or, lack thereof. Finally, in the past couple months, Applicant has continued to use the subject application against Opposer by filing two additional Oppositions, Nos. 91265525 and 91265309.

#### **CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set forth above, Opposer respectfully requests that the Board grant this

Motion for Leave to Amend its Notice of Opposition to provide additional support for its fraud claim.

Respectively submitted,

House of Kuipers LLC, et al.

Dated: November 23, 2020 By: <u>/Katherine Bond/</u>

Katherine M. Bond, Esq. Daniel M. Cislo, Esq. David B. Sandelands, Esq. 12100 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 1700 Los Angeles, CA 90025

Tel: 310.979.9190 Its Attorneys

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true copy of the foregoing OPPOSER'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AN AMENDED NOTICE OF OPPOSITION and the AMENDED NOTICE OF OPPOSITION was served on opposing counsel via email this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2020.

Counsel for Applicant:
DARREN GELIEBTER
ERIC HUANG
deliebter@lgtrademarklaw.com
ehuang@lgtrademark.com

/Katherine Bond/ Katherine M. Bond

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

#### IN THE MATTER OF TRADEMARK SERIAL NO. 88/228,839

House of Kuipers LLC, a California limited liability company, et al.,	)	
Opposer,	)	Opposition No.: 91252817
v.	)	Opposition No.: 91232817
John Zox, an Individual,	)	
Applicant.	) )	

#### **AMENDED NOTICE OF OPPOSITION**

Opposer House of Kuipers, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company, having offices at 5304 Derry Avenue, Suite G, Agoura Hills, CA 91301, and its related entity ZOX LLC, a California Limited Liability Company, having offices at 5304 Derry Avenue Suite J, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 (collectively, "House of Kuipers"), believes that it will be damaged by the registration of the trademark shown in Application Serial No. 88/228,839 (the "Application") filed by ZOX Music and later assigned to John ZOX an individual with address at PO Box 3236 Church Street, New York, New York 100083236 (collectively, "John Zox"). House of Kuipers therefore opposes the Application and requests that registration of the Application be refused.

As grounds for its opposition, House of Kuipers alleges that:

1. John Zox seeks to register a mark that consists of the term ZOX ("Applicant's Mark") for use in connection with "Non-magnetically encoded gift cards; Stickers and transfers" (Applicant's Class 16 Application), "non-metal identification bracelets" (Applicant's Class 20

Application), "all-purpose straps comprised of synthetic materials; Sacks or bags for the transportation or storage of materials in bulk; String" (Applicant's Class 22 Application), "fabrics for textile use" (Applicant's Class 24 Application), and "Arm bands; Belt buckles; Charms for shoes; Clothing accessories, namely, charms for attachment to zipper pulls and buttons; Hair bands; Shoe laces" (Applicant's Class 26 Application) in International Classes 16, 20, 22, 24, and 26 (collectively, the "Applicant's Goods") John ZOX filed the Application on December 13, 2018.

- 2. This Notice of Opposition is timely filed within the time permitted following publication of the application in the Official Gazette.
- 3. Applicant's registration should be denied in connection with Applicant's Goods because Applicant's ZOX mark is primarily merely a surname. Furthermore, Applicant has not provided and cannot show substantial, exclusive and continuous use of the mark in commerce in connection with Applicant's Goods for at least the five years immediately before the date of his application for registration.
- 4. The Applicant's Application should be refused in connection with Applicant's Goods because Applicant's use of the term "ZOX" does not function as a trademark. As further described below, Applicant's specimens filed in connection with the Application show merely ornamental use of the term "ZOX." A purchaser of the goods would not understand that the term "ZOX" on the Applicant's Goods is intended to identify the applicant as the source of the goods, but rather would see it only an ornamentation on the goods.
- 5. The Applicant's Application should be refused because registration is being sought fraudulently in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1064(3). As House of Kuipers' has grown more famous, so have the claims of Applicant that it also now sells the same goods or goods in close

proximity to House of Kuipers Goods in interstate commerce. Since as early as 2014, Applicant has sought to register trademarks that infringe upon and dilute the House of Kuipers' Trademarks (See Serial No. 86954997) on the basis that because Applicant's last name is ZOX and Applicant's late musical band was called "ZOX," it should be entitled to the ZOX trademark across a wide variety of goods. Applicant's musical band, ZOX, has not toured since 2014, and Applicant's specimens do not show goods that have actually been produced, rather provide mockups of goods that Applicant may produce and sell. For example, a consumer can use the online custom print platform such as Zazzle to upload an image and/or name. Attached as Exhibit A are "replications" using "XYZ" in a circle design of some of the alleged specimens Applicant filed in connection with the Application. Upon information and belief, Applicant did not make a *pona fide* use of the applied-for ZOX mark in U.S. commerce in connection with the identified goods at the time the Application was filed. If true, the subject application is void ab initio, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1051(a), and the application should be refused accordingly. House of Kuipers has reason to believe that Applicant has not sold any or most of the goods claimed by Applicant in interstate commerce at any point or at least not for five years prior to this Application. Applicant's Application contains the statements that "[t]he applicant...is using the mark in commerce," and that "the mark was first used at least as early as the dates listed in the table below and first used in commerce at least as early as the dates listed in the table below."

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Class	Goods	First Use In Commerce
<u>16</u>	Non-magnetically	20040901
	encoded gift cards;	
	Stickers and transfers.	
<u>20</u>	Non-metal identification	<u>20050601</u>
	<u>bracelets</u>	
22	All-purpose straps	<u>20050601</u>

	comprised of synthetic	
	textile materials; Sacks or	
	bags for the	
	transportation or storage	
	of materials in bulk;	
	String.	
<u>24</u>	Fabrics for textile use	20070101
<u>26</u>	Arm bands; Belt buckles;	<u>20050601</u>
	Charms for shoes;	
	Clothing accessories,	
	namely, charms for	
	attachment to zipper pulls	
	and buttons; Hair bands;	
	Shoe laces.	
<u>28</u>	Party games	20070101

The Application also contains a standard declaration as to the truth of Applicant's statements in the Application.

- 6. Alternatively, Applicant's Application should be refused because registration is being sought for a mark that has been abandoned by Applicant. Any registration would be in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1064(3).
- 7. Since at least as early as 1991, House of Kuipers, its predecessors, its assignors, its related companies, or its licensees have continuously used the term ZOX, alone or with another term for a wide variety of retail products and services, including ZOX, ZOXBOX, ZOX STRAPS, and ZOXLIST ("House of Kuipers' Trademarks") in connection with the sale of retail and wholesale products including wristbands, clasp bracelets, hoodies, hoodie strings, dog bags, backpacks, camera bags, small bags, interchangeable bag straps, shirts, wall prints, keychains, lanyards, coloring books, stickers, electronic gift cards and radio frequency identification bracelets, and in close proximity to clothing, accessories and identification bracelets, and paper products ("House of Kuipers' Goods"), the products being sold under the name ZOX and now

appearing in connection with House of Kuipers' related trademarks and goods on the zox.la product pages.

- 8. Since at least as early as 1991, ZOX International, Inc., a Nebraska Corporation, continuously used the term ZOX, Registration No. 2,992,108 in interstate commerce as an identifier of a variety of goods and services, including clothing and accessories; namely, jackets, coats, sweaters, pants, shirts, shorts, swimwear, and undergarments for women and men, jogging suits, T-shirts, tank tops, jerseys, cotton woven shirts, knit shirts, polo shirts, golf shirts, dresses, blouses, nightgowns, pajamas, sweat pants, sweatshirts, jogging suits, neckties, belts, suspenders, sandals, shoes, caps, hats, wristbands, head bands, sun visors, scarves, bandannas, ear muffs, gloves, mittens, leg warmers, pantyhose, stockings, leotards, tights, and leggings in International Class 25. This trademark was registered on the Principal Register on September 6, 2005 from an application filed on May 10, 2004. House of Kuipers was assigned the rights and goodwill associated with Registration No. 2,992,108 on April 25, 2013.
- 9. Since at least as early as 2011, House of Kuipers, its predecessors, its related companies, or its licensees have continuously used the term ZOX Straps, Registration No. 4,412,948 in interstate commerce as an identifier of a variety of goods and services, including Elastic fabric wristbands in the nature of a bracelet in International Class 14. This trademark was registered on the Principal Register on October 8, 2013 from an application filed on October 3, 2011.
- 10. Since at least as early as 2011, House of Kuipers, its predecessors, its related companies, or its licensees have continuously used the term ZOX, Registration No. 4,465,691 in interstate commerce as an identifier of a variety of goods and services, including Wristbands in the nature of a bracelet in International Class 14 and Wristbands; shirts in International Class

- 025. This trademark was registered on the Principal Register on January 14, 2014 from an application filed on May 31, 2013.
- 11. Since at least as early as 2012, House of Kuipers, its predecessors, its related companies, or its licensees have continuously used the term ZOXBOX, Registration No 4,759,961 in interstate commerce as an identifier of a variety of goods and services, including Wristbands in International Class 025. This trademark was registered on the Principal Register on June 23, 2015 from an application filed on November 2, 2014.
- 12. Since at least as early as 2011, House of Kuipers, its predecessors, its related companies, or its licensees have continuously used the term ZOX, Registration No 5,233,845 in interstate commerce as an identifier of a variety of goods and services, including Backpacks in International Class 018 and On-line retail and wholesale store services featuring clothing apparel, wristbands, bags and accessories in International Class 035. This trademark was registered on the Principal Register on June 27, 2017 from an application filed on July 7, 2016.
- 13. House of Kuipers' Trademarks have also continuously appeared in substantial advertising and promotion of House of Kuipers' Goods, such that the marks are closely identified with House of Kuipers' Goods and have gained valuable public recognition. House of Kuipers has substantial and continuous sales and advertising in all fifty United States for House of Kuipers Goods'. House of Kuipers' Trademarks are inherently distinctive or have become distinctive through acquisition of secondary meaning. By virtue of its sales of high-quality products bearing House of Kuipers' Trademarks in interstate commerce, its expenditures of considerable sums for promotional activities, and the excellence of its products, House of Kuipers developed significant goodwill in House of Kuipers' Trademarks and a valuable reputation.

- 14. House of Kuipers has continuously used House of Kuipers' Trademarks in interstate commerce for retail products and services related to House of Kuipers' Goods, and in close proximity to products, including wristbands, clothing accessories, radio frequency identification bracelets, gift cards, stickers, and interchangeable strings for bags all of which directly overlap with Applicant's Goods since prior to any date upon which John Zox can rely.
- 15. Applicant's Class 20 Application for "non-metal identification bracelets," directly overlap or are in close proximity to House of Kuipers' Goods, including wristbands, bracelets, backpacks, clothing and accessories (Registration Nos. 2,992,108, 4,412,948, 4,465,691and 5,233,845).
- 16. Applicant's Class 22 Application for "fabrics for textile use" directly overlaps with or are in close proximity to House of Kuipers' Goods, including wristbands, bracelets, backpacks, clothing and accessories (Registration Nos. 2,992,108, 4,412,948, 4,465,691 and 5,233,845).
- 17. Applicant's Class 24 "Arm bands; Belt buckles; Charms for shoes; Clothing accessories, namely, charms for attachment to zipper pulls and buttons; Hair bands; Shoe laces" directly overlap or are in close proximity to House of Kuipers' Goods, including wristbands, bracelets, backpacks, clothing and accessories (Registration Nos. 2,992,108, 4,412,948, 4,465,691 and 5,233,845).
- 18. Applicant's Class 26 Application for "all-purpose straps comprised of synthetic materials; Sacks or bags for the transportation or storage of materials in bulk; String" directly overlap or are in close proximity to House of Kuipers' Goods, including wristbands, bracelets, backpacks, clothing and accessories (Registration Nos. 2,992,108, 4,412,948, 4,465,691and 5,233,845).

- 19. House of Kuipers' Trademarks are distinctive, strong, and famous such that the public would associate House of Kuipers' Trademarks with House of Kuipers when encountering House of Kuipers' Trademarks apart from House of Kuipers' Goods.
- 20. Applicant's Mark so resembles House of Kuipers' Trademarks, as to be likely to cause confusion, or cause mistake, or to deceive, in violation of Section 2(d) of The Trademark Act, 15 U.S.C. §1052(d), when used on or in connection with Applicant's Goods.
- 21. Under the circumstances, registration of Applicant's Mark will injure House of Kuipers by causing the trade or purchasing public to be confused or deceived into believing that John Zox's Goods are those of House of Kuipers or are sponsored by House of Kuipers, and will place a cloud over House of Kuipers' title to its ZOX marks, in violation of Section 2(d) of the Trademark Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1052(d).
- 22. House of Kuipers' Trademarks were well established and famous before any priority date upon which John Zox can rely. The registration by John Zox of the ZOX mark in classes that are the same as or in close proximity to House of Kuipers' Goods would diminish and dilute the distinctive quality of House of Kuipers' rights in its famous ZOX marks in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1125(c). Moreover, the registration by John Zox would diminish the advertising value of House of Kuipers' Trademarks, and such registration would, in the event of any quality problems involving Applicant's Goods, tarnish the distinctiveness of House of Kuipers' Trademarks.
- 23. Applicant's Mark is likely to lessen the capacity of House of Kuipers' Trademarks to identify and distinguish House of Kuipers' Goods.
- 24. The Application should be refused because House of Kuipers' rights of continuing its present use of House of Kuipers' Trademarks in commerce are, or would be,

threatened by John Zox's registration of the ZOX mark for Applicant's Goods, and because

House of Kuipers' business would be otherwise damaged by John Zox's registration of the ZOX

mark for John Zox's Goods. The Application is also inconsistent with the prior established rights

of House of Kuipers in its House of Kuipers' Trademarks and is now and will continue to be a

source of damage and injury to House of Kuipers' Trademarks.

WHEREFORE, House of Kuipers prays that Application Serial No. 88/228,839 be

rejected, and that registration for the mark sought for the goods in the Application be denied and

refused.

The required fee for opposing one class of goods, and any additional fees, may be

charged to House of Kuipers' representative's deposit account No. 03-2030

Respectfully submitted,

CISLO & THOMAS LLP

Dated: November 2319, 202019

/Katherine M. Bond/

Daniel M. Cislo, Esq. Katherine M. Bond, Esq.

David B. Sandelands, Esq. CISLO & THOMAS LLP 12100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700 Los Angeles, CA 90025

Tel: (310) 451-0647 Fax: (310) 394-4477

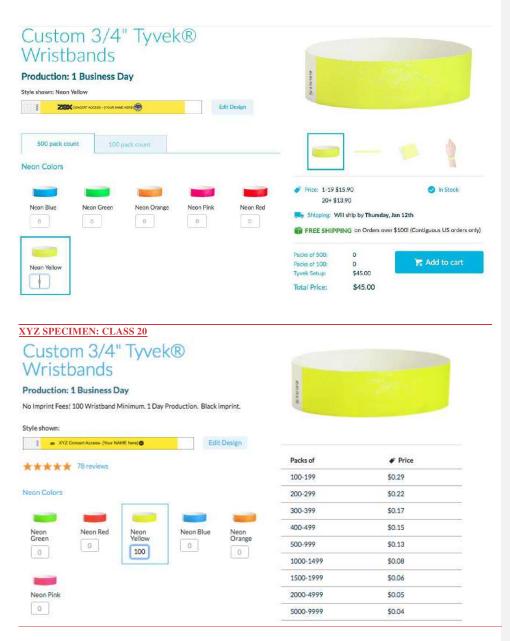
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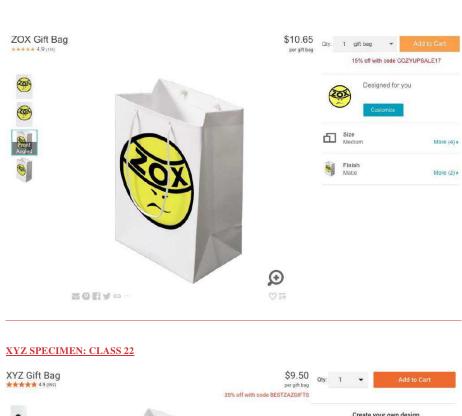
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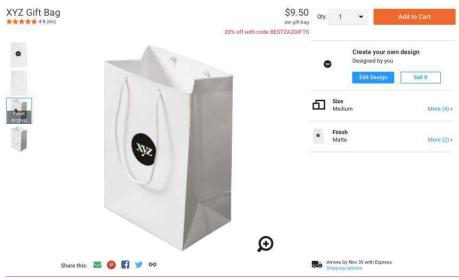


#### XYZ SPECIMEN: CLASS 16









JOHN ZOX SPECIMEN: CLASS 22



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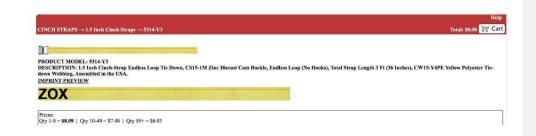


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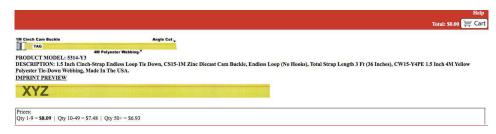


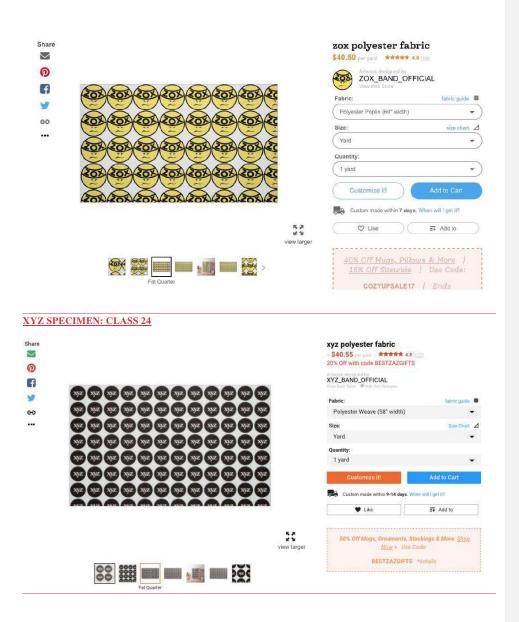
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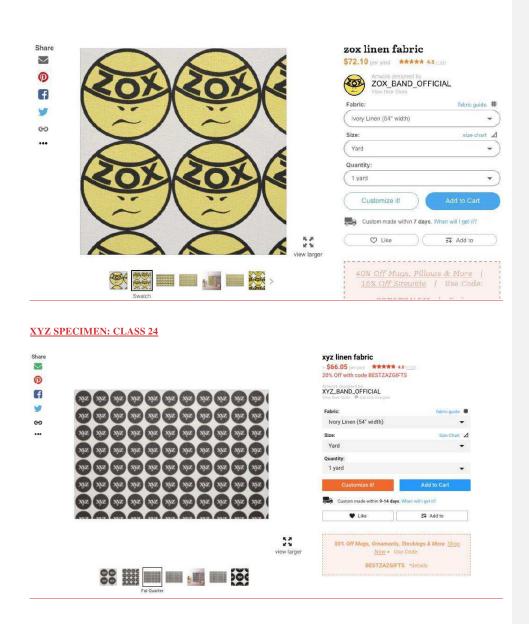
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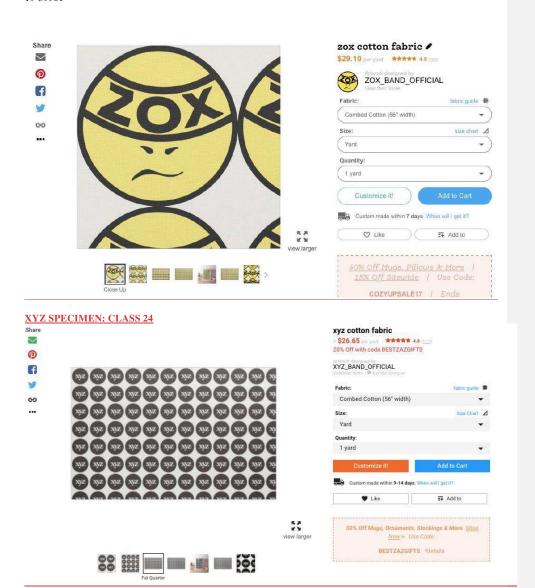


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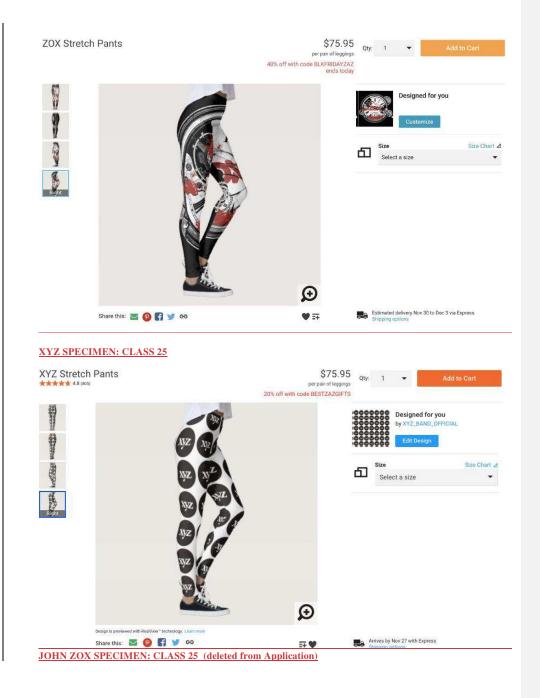


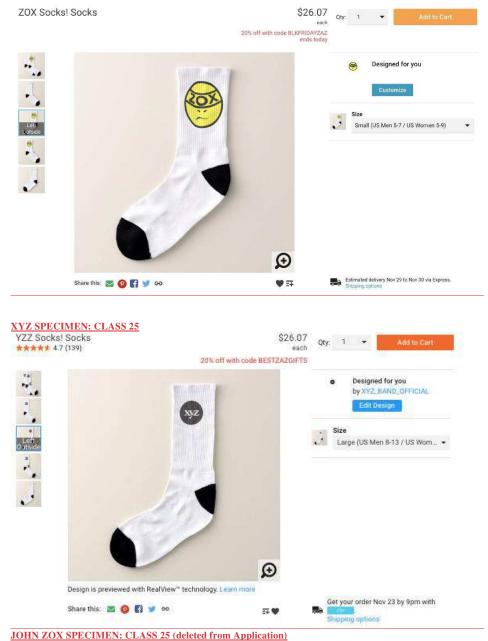


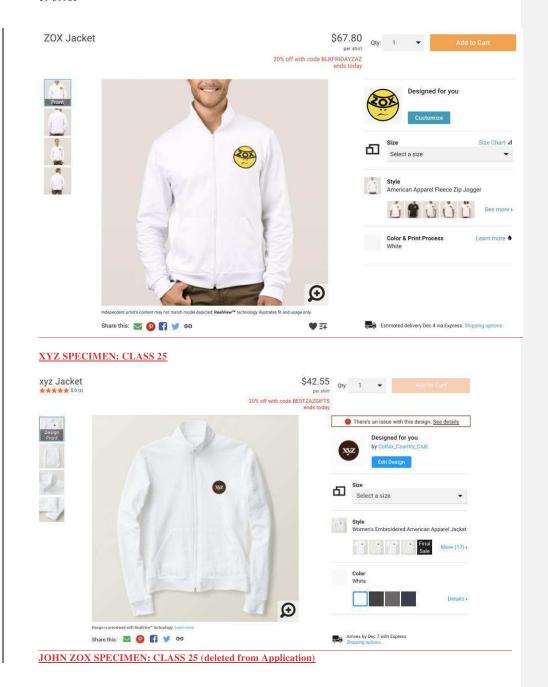


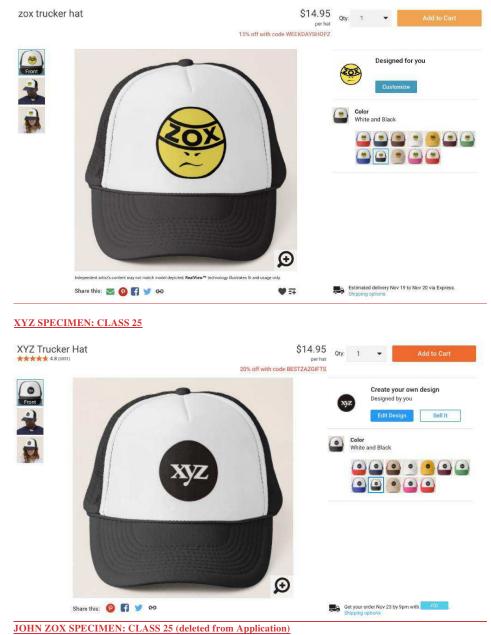


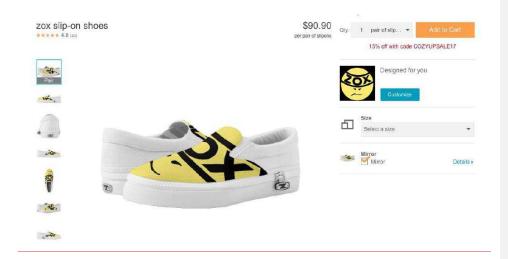
JOHN ZOX SPECIMEN: CLASS 25 (deleted from Application)



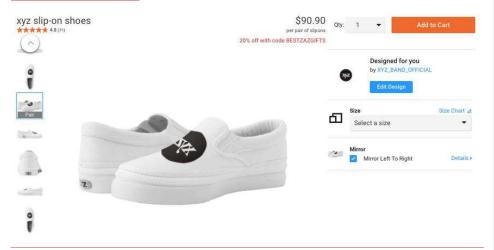


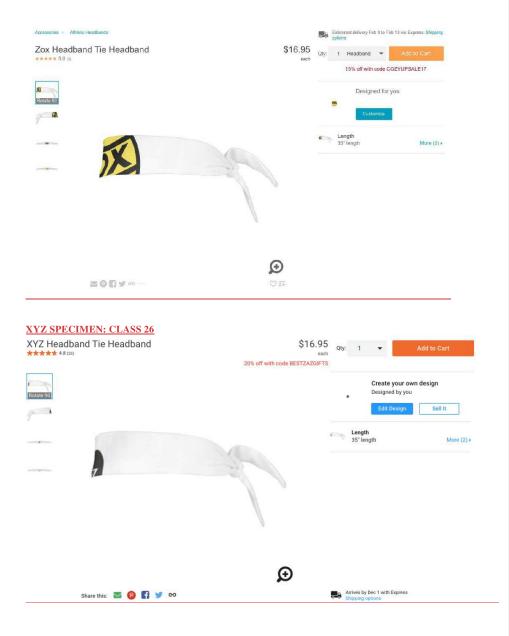


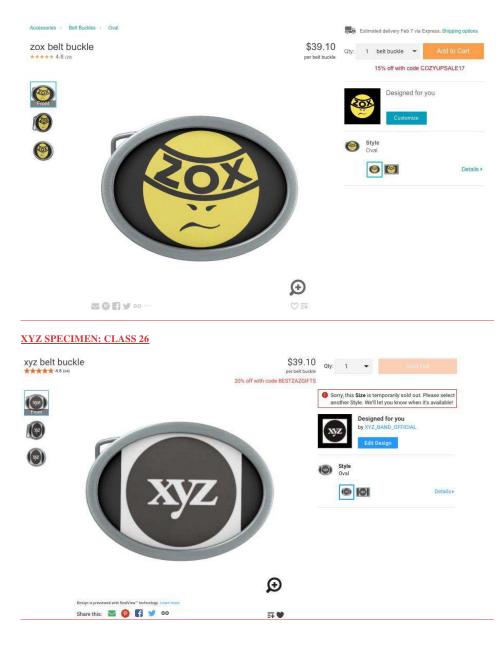


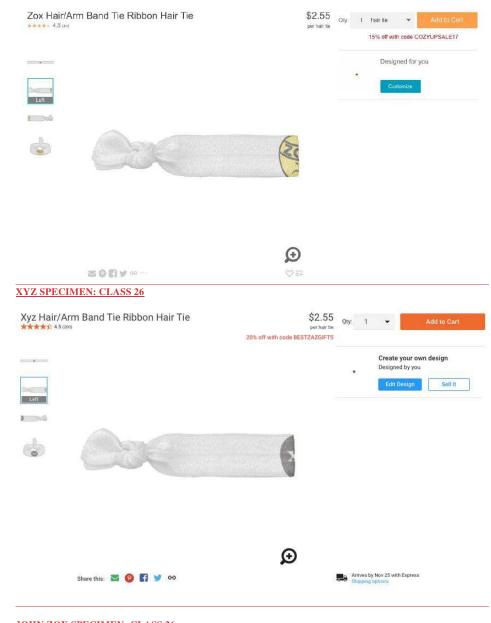


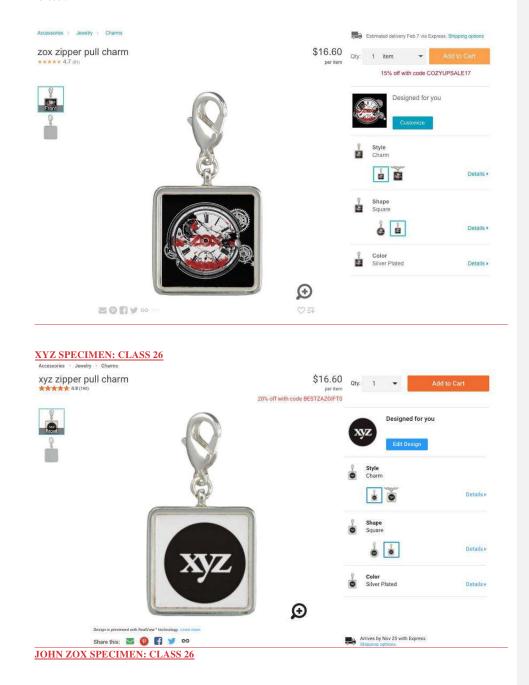
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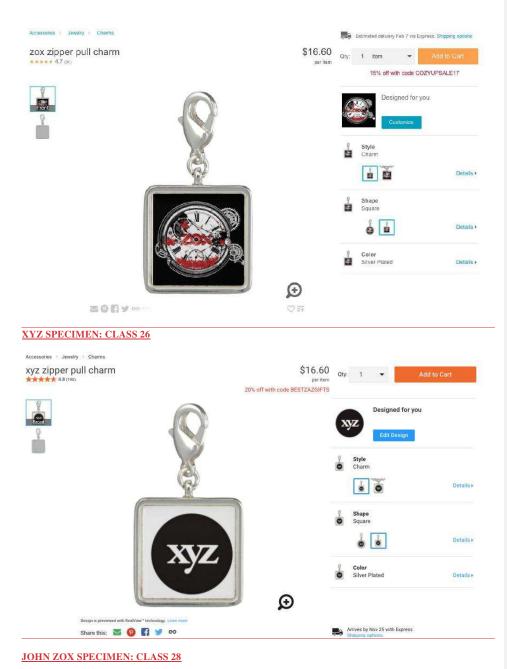


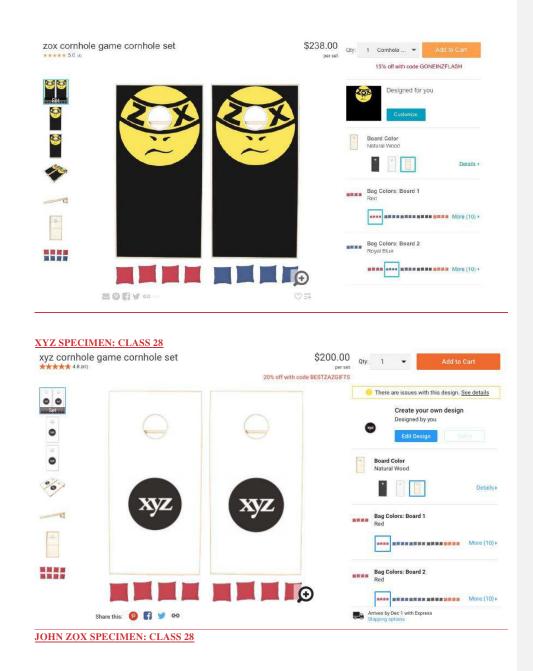


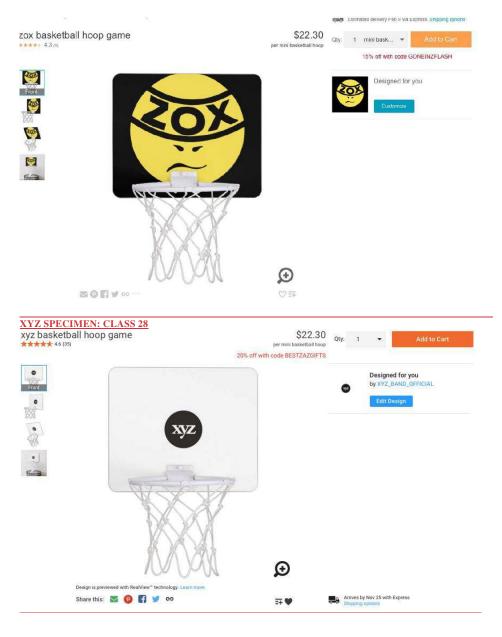






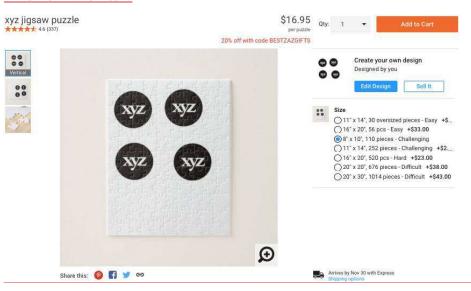






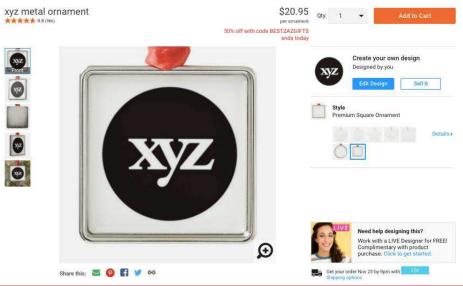
**JOHN ZOX SPECIMEN: CLASS 28** 





JOHN ZOX SPECIMEN

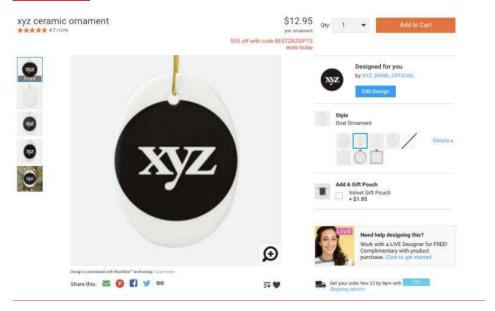




JOHN ZOX SPECIMEN

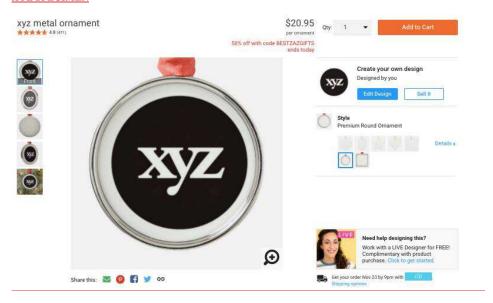


## XYZ SPECIMEN



#### JOHN ZOX SPECIMEN





## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

<u>I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Amended Notice of Opposition was served</u> upon John Zox' attorney of record by electronic mail on November 20, 2020.

Counsel for Applicant:
DARREN GELIEBTER
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Dated: November 23, 2020 /Katherine M. Bond/ <u>Katherine M. Bond, Esq.</u>

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I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Notice of Opposition was served upon John Zox and his attorney of record, by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the addresses listed on the date given below and by electronic mail to docket@bozpat.com.

John Zox Church St. Sta. - PO Box 3236 New York, NY 100083236

Edward Baba
Bozicevic, Field & Francis LLP
201 Redwood Shores Parkway, Suite 200
Redwood City, CA 94065

Dated: November 19, 2019

DRAFT

Daniel M. Cislo, Esq.

David B. Sandelands, Esq.

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

## IN THE MATTER OF TRADEMARK SERIAL NO. 88/228,839

House of Kuipers LLC, a California limited liability company, et al.,	) )	
Opposer,	)	<b>Opposition No.: 91252817</b>
V.	)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
John Zox, an Individual,	)	
Applicant.	)	
	)	

## AMENDED NOTICE OF OPPOSITION

Opposer House of Kuipers, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company, having offices at 5304 Derry Avenue, Suite G, Agoura Hills, CA 91301, and its related entity ZOX LLC, a California Limited Liability Company, having offices at 5304 Derry Avenue Suite J, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 (collectively, "House of Kuipers"), believes that it will be damaged by the registration of the trademark shown in Application Serial No. 88/228,839 (the "Application") filed by ZOX Music and later assigned to John ZOX an individual with address at PO Box 3236 Church Street, New York, New York 100083236 (collectively, "John Zox"). House of Kuipers therefore opposes the Application and requests that registration of the Application be refused.

As grounds for its opposition, House of Kuipers alleges that:

1. John Zox seeks to register a mark that consists of the term ZOX ("Applicant's Mark") for use in connection with "Non-magnetically encoded gift cards; Stickers and transfers" (Applicant's Class 16 Application), "non-metal identification bracelets" (Applicant's Class 20

Application), "all-purpose straps comprised of synthetic materials; Sacks or bags for the transportation or storage of materials in bulk; String" (Applicant's Class 22 Application), "fabrics for textile use" (Applicant's Class 24 Application), and "Arm bands; Belt buckles; Charms for shoes; Clothing accessories, namely, charms for attachment to zipper pulls and buttons; Hair bands; Shoe laces" (Applicant's Class 26 Application) in International Classes 16, 20, 22, 24, and 26 (collectively, the "Applicant's Goods") John ZOX filed the Application on December 13, 2018.

- 2. This Notice of Opposition is timely filed within the time permitted following publication of the application in the Official Gazette.
- 3. Applicant's registration should be denied in connection with Applicant's Goods because Applicant's ZOX mark is primarily merely a surname. Furthermore, Applicant has not provided and cannot show substantial, exclusive and continuous use of the mark in commerce in connection with Applicant's Goods for at least the five years immediately before the date of his application for registration.
- 4. The Applicant's Application should be refused in connection with Applicant's Goods because Applicant's use of the term "ZOX" does not function as a trademark. As further described below, Applicant's specimens filed in connection with the Application show merely ornamental use of the term "ZOX." A purchaser of the goods would not understand that the term "ZOX" on the Applicant's Goods is intended to identify the applicant as the source of the goods, but rather would see it only an ornamentation on the goods.
- 5. The Applicant's Application should be refused because registration is being sought fraudulently in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1064(3). As House of Kuipers' has grown more famous, so have the claims of Applicant that it also now sells the same goods or goods in close

proximity to House of Kuipers Goods in interstate commerce. Since as early as 2014, Applicant has sought to register trademarks that infringe upon and dilute the House of Kuipers' Trademarks (See Serial No. 86954997) on the basis that because Applicant's last name is ZOX and Applicant's late musical band was called "ZOX," it should be entitled to the ZOX trademark across a wide variety of goods. Applicant's musical band, ZOX, has not toured since 2014, and Applicant's specimens do not show goods that have actually been produced, rather provide mockups of goods that Applicant may produce and sell. For example, a consumer can use the online custom print platform such as Zazzle to upload an image and/or name. Attached as Exhibit A are "replications" using "XYZ" in a circle design of some of the alleged specimens Applicant filed in connection with the Application. Upon information and belief, Applicant did not make a bona fide use of the applied-for ZOX mark in U.S. commerce in connection with the identified goods at the time the Application was filed. If true, the subject application is void ab initio, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1051(a), and the application should be refused accordingly. House of Kuipers has reason to believe that Applicant has not sold any or most of the goods claimed by Applicant in interstate commerce at any point or at least not for five years prior to this Application. Applicant's Application contains the statements that "[t]he applicant...is using the mark in commerce," and that "the mark was first used at least as early as the dates listed in the table below and first used in commerce at least as early as the dates listed in the table below."

Class	Goods	First Use In Commerce
16	Non-magnetically encoded gift cards;	20040901
	Stickers and transfers.	
20	Non-metal identification bracelets	20050601
22	All-purpose straps comprised of	20050601
	synthetic textile materials; Sacks or	

	bags for the transportation or storage	
	of materials in bulk; String.	
24	Fabrics for textile use	20070101
26	Arm bands; Belt buckles; Charms for shoes; Clothing accessories, namely, charms for attachment to zipper pulls and buttons; Hair bands; Shoe laces.	20050601
28	Party games	20070101

The Applicant also contains a standard declaration as to the truth of Applicant's statements in the Application.

- 6. Alternatively, Applicant's Application should be refused because registration is being sought for a mark that has been abandoned by Applicant. Any registration would be in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 1064(3).
- 7. Since at least as early as 1991, House of Kuipers, its predecessors, its assignors, its related companies, or its licensees have continuously used the term ZOX, alone or with another term for a wide variety of retail products and services, including ZOX, ZOXBOX, ZOX STRAPS, and ZOXLIST ("House of Kuipers' Trademarks") in connection with the sale of retail and wholesale products including wristbands, clasp bracelets, hoodies, hoodie strings, dog bags, backpacks, camera bags, small bags, interchangeable bag straps, shirts, wall prints, keychains, lanyards, coloring books, stickers, electronic gift cards and radio frequency identification bracelets, and in close proximity to clothing, accessories and identification bracelets, and paper products ("House of Kuipers' Goods"), the products being sold under the name ZOX and now appearing in connection with House of Kuipers' related trademarks and goods on the zox.la product pages.

- 8. Since at least as early as 1991, ZOX International, Inc., a Nebraska Corporation, continuously used the term ZOX, Registration No. 2,992,108 in interstate commerce as an identifier of a variety of goods and services, including clothing and accessories; namely, jackets, coats, sweaters, pants, shirts, shorts, swimwear, and undergarments for women and men, jogging suits, T-shirts, tank tops, jerseys, cotton woven shirts, knit shirts, polo shirts, golf shirts, dresses, blouses, nightgowns, pajamas, sweat pants, sweatshirts, jogging suits, neckties, belts, suspenders, sandals, shoes, caps, hats, wristbands, head bands, sun visors, scarves, bandannas, ear muffs, gloves, mittens, leg warmers, pantyhose, stockings, leotards, tights, and leggings in International Class 25. This trademark was registered on the Principal Register on September 6, 2005 from an application filed on May 10, 2004. House of Kuipers was assigned the rights and goodwill associated with Registration No. 2,992,108 on April 25, 2013.
- 9. Since at least as early as 2011, House of Kuipers, its predecessors, its related companies, or its licensees have continuously used the term ZOX Straps, Registration No. 4,412,948 in interstate commerce as an identifier of a variety of goods and services, including Elastic fabric wristbands in the nature of a bracelet in International Class 14. This trademark was registered on the Principal Register on October 8, 2013 from an application filed on October 3, 2011.
- 10. Since at least as early as 2011, House of Kuipers, its predecessors, its related companies, or its licensees have continuously used the term ZOX, Registration No. 4,465,691 in interstate commerce as an identifier of a variety of goods and services, including Wristbands in the nature of a bracelet in International Class 14 and Wristbands; shirts in International Class 025. This trademark was registered on the Principal Register on January 14, 2014 from an application filed on May 31, 2013.

- 11. Since at least as early as 2012, House of Kuipers, its predecessors, its related companies, or its licensees have continuously used the term ZOXBOX, Registration No 4,759,961 in interstate commerce as an identifier of a variety of goods and services, including Wristbands in International Class 025. This trademark was registered on the Principal Register on June 23, 2015 from an application filed on November 2, 2014.
- 12. Since at least as early as 2011, House of Kuipers, its predecessors, its related companies, or its licensees have continuously used the term ZOX, Registration No 5,233,845 in interstate commerce as an identifier of a variety of goods and services, including Backpacks in International Class 018 and On-line retail and wholesale store services featuring clothing apparel, wristbands, bags and accessories in International Class 035. This trademark was registered on the Principal Register on June 27, 2017 from an application filed on July 7, 2016.
- 13. House of Kuipers' Trademarks have also continuously appeared in substantial advertising and promotion of House of Kuipers' Goods, such that the marks are closely identified with House of Kuipers' Goods and have gained valuable public recognition. House of Kuipers has substantial and continuous sales and advertising in all fifty United States for House of Kuipers Goods'. House of Kuipers' Trademarks are inherently distinctive or have become distinctive through acquisition of secondary meaning. By virtue of its sales of high-quality products bearing House of Kuipers' Trademarks in interstate commerce, its expenditures of considerable sums for promotional activities, and the excellence of its products, House of Kuipers developed significant goodwill in House of Kuipers' Trademarks and a valuable reputation.
- 14. House of Kuipers has continuously used House of Kuipers' Trademarks in interstate commerce for retail products and services related to House of Kuipers' Goods, and in

close proximity to products, including wristbands, clothing accessories, radio frequency identification bracelets, gift cards, stickers, and interchangeable strings for bags all of which directly overlap with Applicant's Goods since prior to any date upon which John Zox can rely.

- 15. Applicant's Class 20 Application for "non-metal identification bracelets," directly overlap or are in close proximity to House of Kuipers' Goods, including wristbands, bracelets, backpacks, clothing and accessories (Registration Nos. 2,992,108, 4,412,948, 4,465,691and 5,233,845).
- 16. Applicant's Class 22 Application for "fabrics for textile use" directly overlaps with or are in close proximity to House of Kuipers' Goods, including wristbands, bracelets, backpacks, clothing and accessories (Registration Nos. 2,992,108, 4,412,948, 4,465,691 and 5,233,845).
- 17. Applicant's Class 24 "Arm bands; Belt buckles; Charms for shoes; Clothing accessories, namely, charms for attachment to zipper pulls and buttons; Hair bands; Shoe laces" directly overlap or are in close proximity to House of Kuipers' Goods, including wristbands, bracelets, backpacks, clothing and accessories (Registration Nos. 2,992,108, 4,412,948, 4,465,691 and 5,233,845).
- 18. Applicant's Class 26 Application for "all-purpose straps comprised of synthetic materials; Sacks or bags for the transportation or storage of materials in bulk; String" directly overlap or are in close proximity to House of Kuipers' Goods, including wristbands, bracelets, backpacks, clothing and accessories (Registration Nos. 2,992,108, 4,412,948, 4,465,691and 5,233,845).

- 19. House of Kuipers' Trademarks are distinctive, strong, and famous such that the public would associate House of Kuipers' Trademarks with House of Kuipers when encountering House of Kuipers' Trademarks apart from House of Kuipers' Goods.
- 20. Applicant's Mark so resembles House of Kuipers' Trademarks, as to be likely to cause confusion, or cause mistake, or to deceive, in violation of Section 2(d) of The Trademark Act, 15 U.S.C. §1052(d), when used on or in connection with Applicant's Goods.
- 21. Under the circumstances, registration of Applicant's Mark will injure House of Kuipers by causing the trade or purchasing public to be confused or deceived into believing that John Zox's Goods are those of House of Kuipers or are sponsored by House of Kuipers, and will place a cloud over House of Kuipers' title to its ZOX marks, in violation of Section 2(d) of the Trademark Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1052(d).
- 22. House of Kuipers' Trademarks were well established and famous before any priority date upon which John Zox can rely. The registration by John Zox of the ZOX mark in classes that are the same as or in close proximity to House of Kuipers' Goods would diminish and dilute the distinctive quality of House of Kuipers' rights in its famous ZOX marks in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1125(c). Moreover, the registration by John Zox would diminish the advertising value of House of Kuipers' Trademarks, and such registration would, in the event of any quality problems involving Applicant's Goods, tarnish the distinctiveness of House of Kuipers' Trademarks.
- 23. Applicant's Mark is likely to lessen the capacity of House of Kuipers' Trademarks to identify and distinguish House of Kuipers' Goods.
- 24. The Application should be refused because House of Kuipers' rights of continuing its present use of House of Kuipers' Trademarks in commerce are, or would be,

threatened by John Zox's registration of the ZOX mark for Applicant's Goods, and because

House of Kuipers' business would be otherwise damaged by John Zox's registration of the ZOX

mark for John Zox's Goods. The Application is also inconsistent with the prior established rights

of House of Kuipers in its House of Kuipers' Trademarks and is now and will continue to be a

source of damage and injury to House of Kuipers' Trademarks.

WHEREFORE, House of Kuipers prays that Application Serial No. 88/228,839 be

rejected, and that registration for the mark sought for the goods in the Application be denied and

refused.

The required fee for opposing one class of goods, and any additional fees, may be

charged to House of Kuipers' representative's deposit account No. 03-2030

Respectfully submitted,

CISLO & THOMAS LLP

Dated: November 23, 2020

/Katherine M. Bond/

Daniel M. Cislo, Esq. Katherine M. Bond

David B. Sandelands, Esq.

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9

## **EXHIBIT A**







## **XYZ SPECIMEN: CLASS 20**

# Custom 3/4" Tyvek® Wristbands

#### Production: 1 Business Day

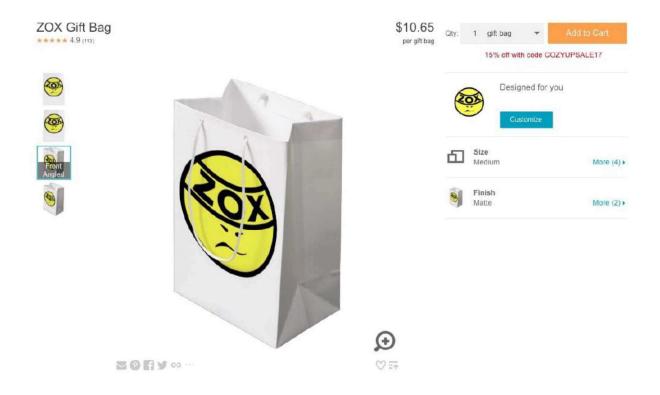
No Imprint Fees! 100 Wristband Minimum. 1 Day Production. Black imprint.

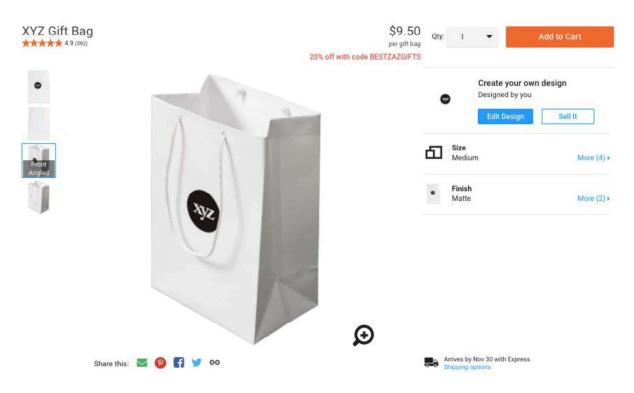






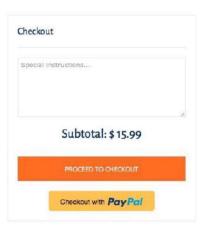
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300-399	\$0.17
400-499	\$0.15
500-999	\$0.13
1000-1499	\$0.08
1500-1999	\$0.06
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5000-9999	\$0.04
	SOUTH OF THE







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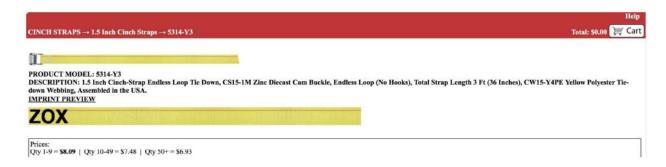


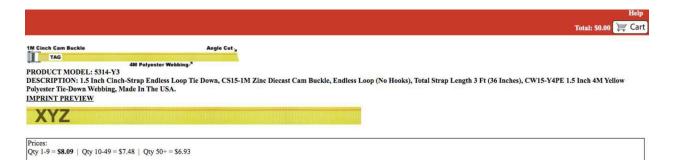
## **XYZ SPECIMEN: CLASS 22**



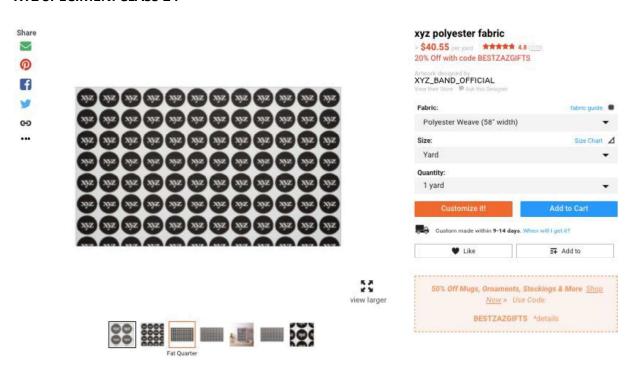
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Special Instrui	tions	
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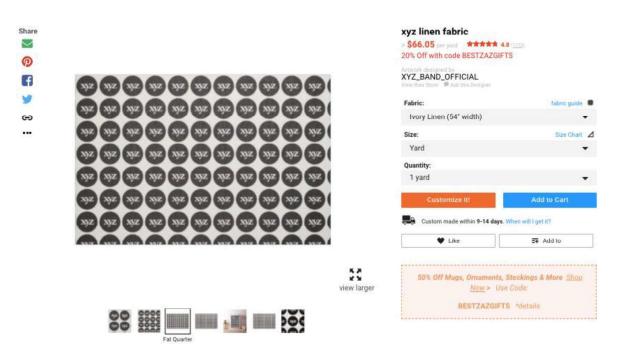




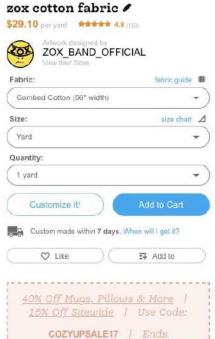






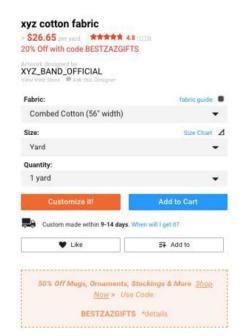






## **XYZ SPECIMEN: CLASS 24**

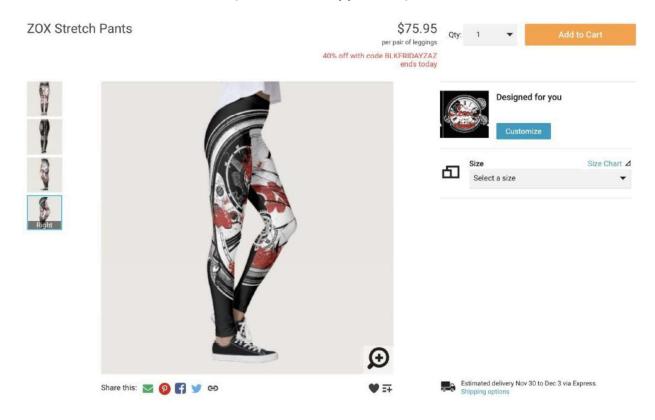


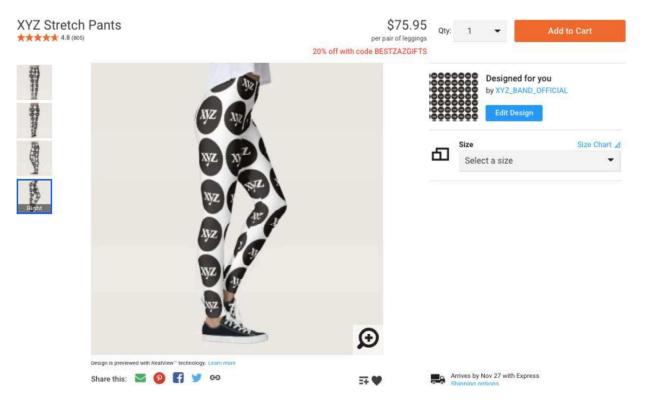


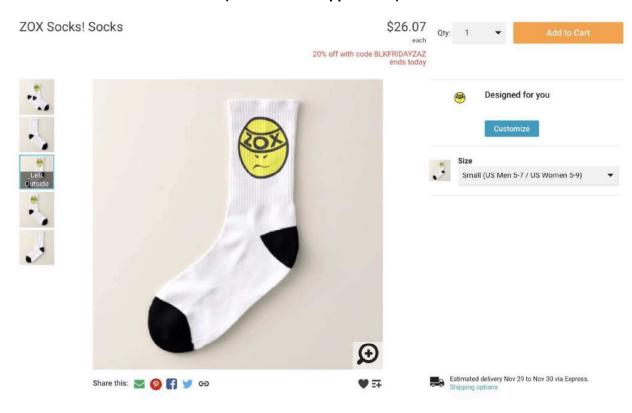


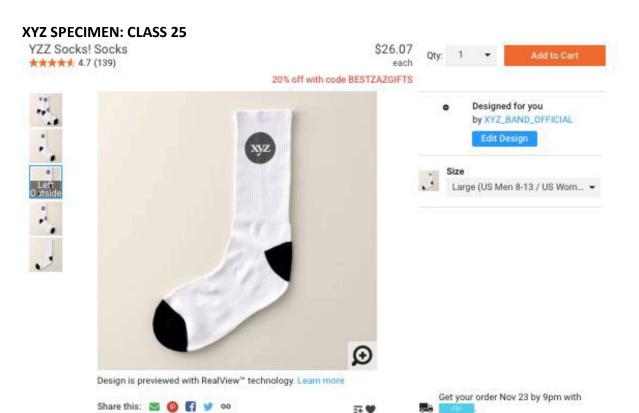
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view larger

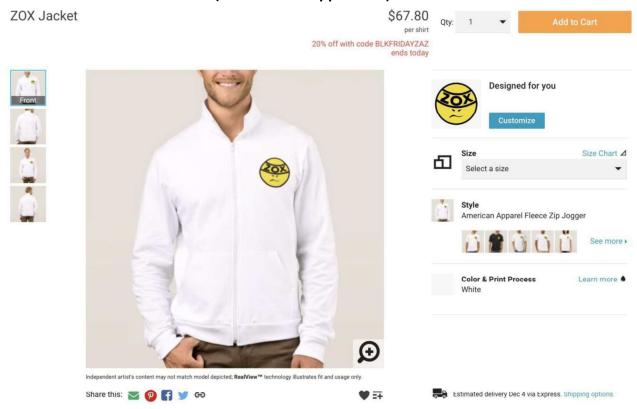


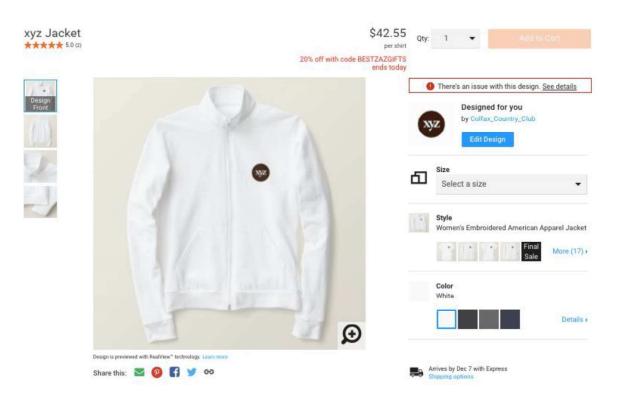


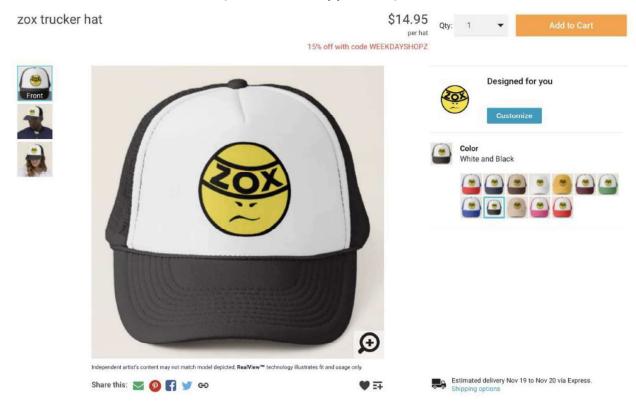


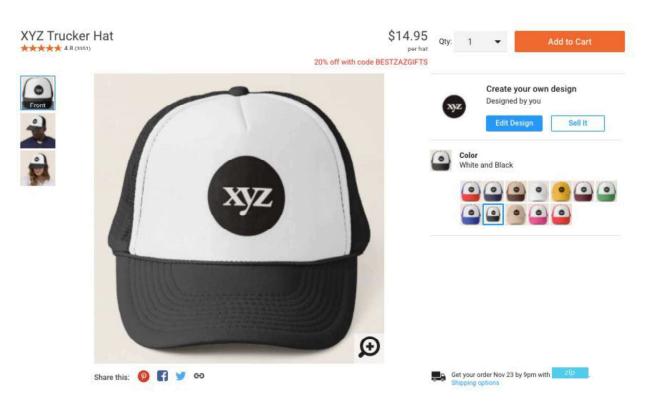


Shipping options

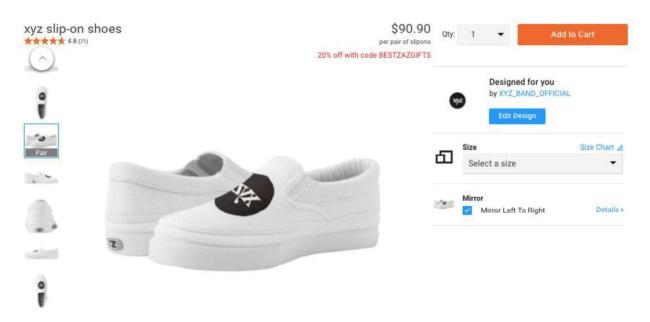


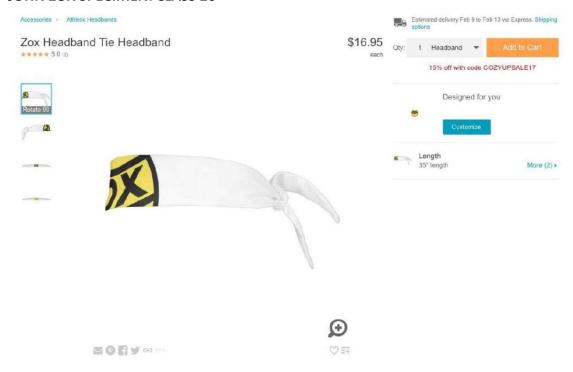


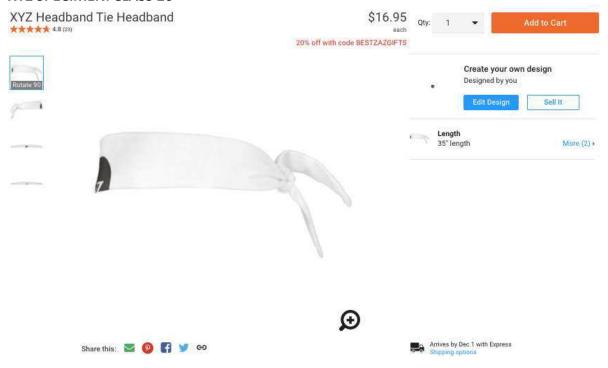




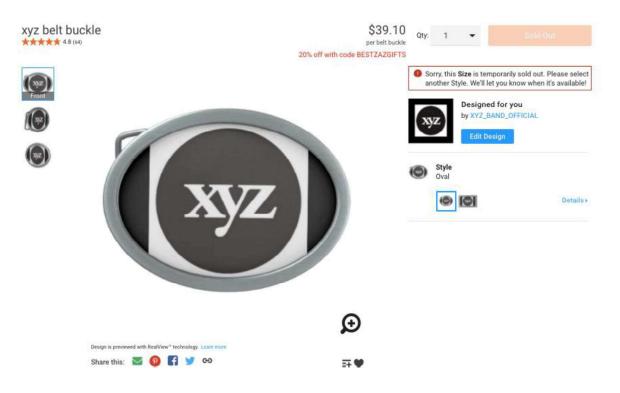


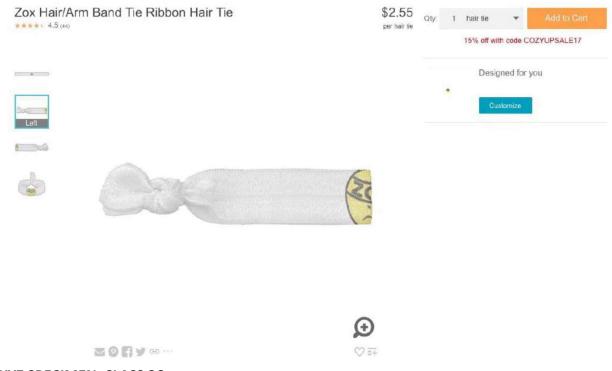


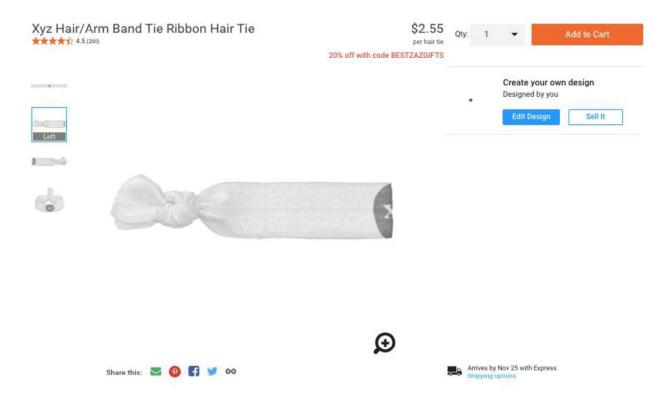


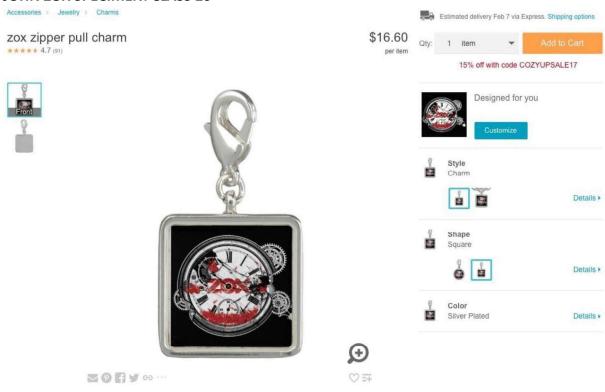


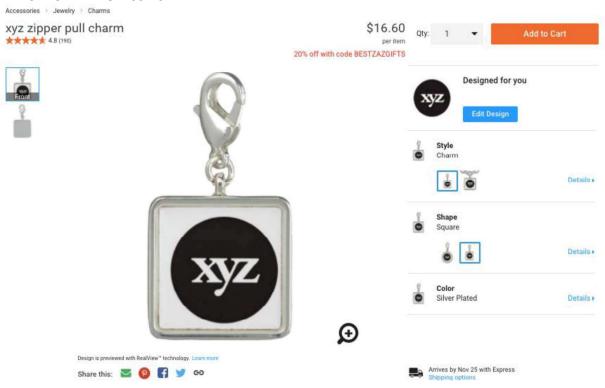


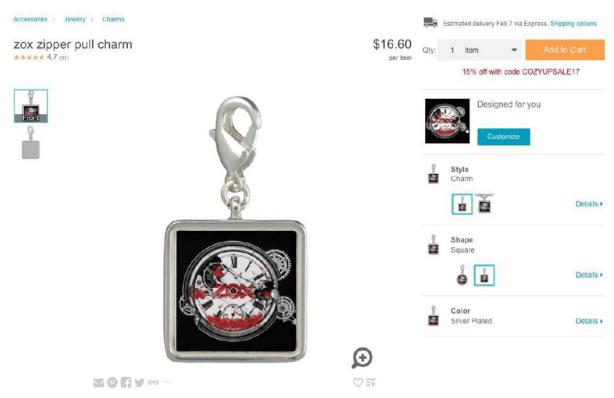


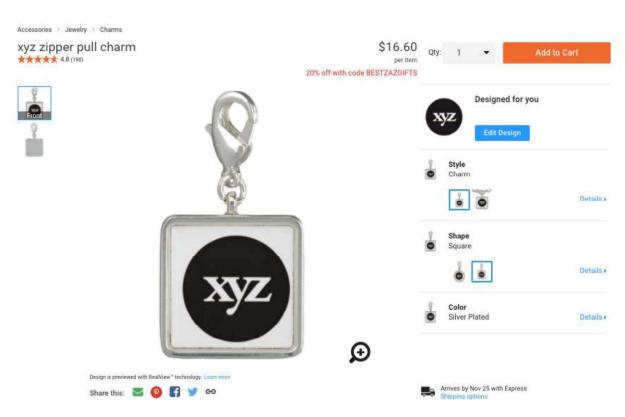


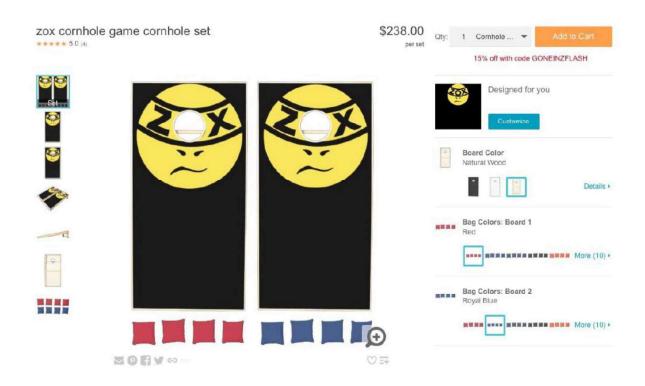


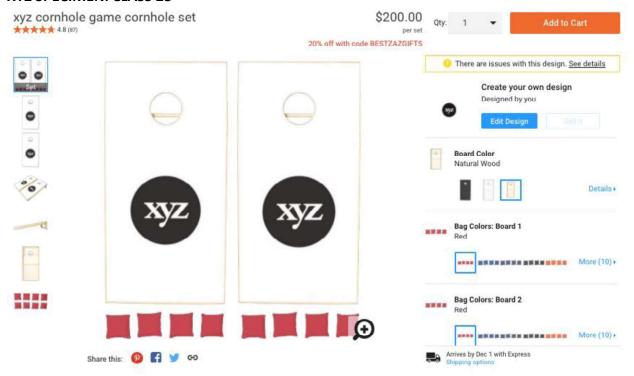


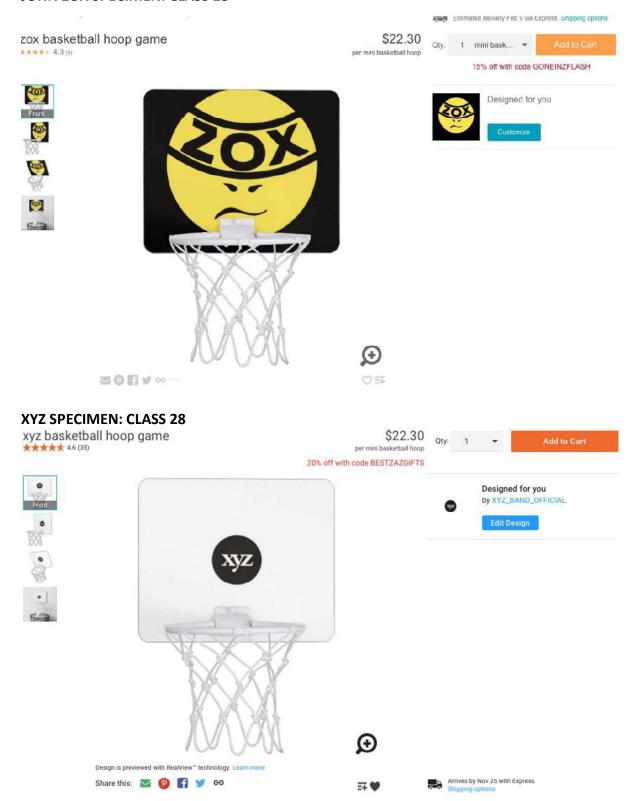




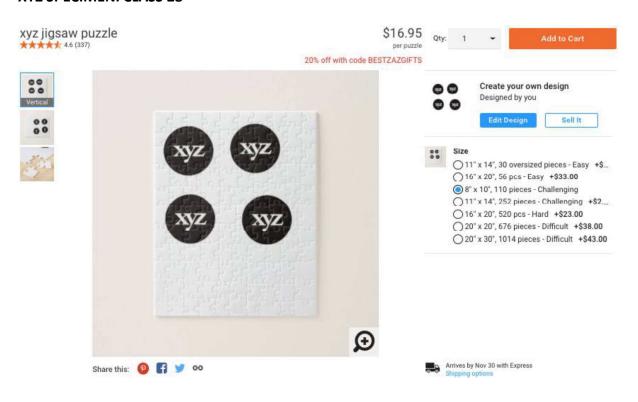






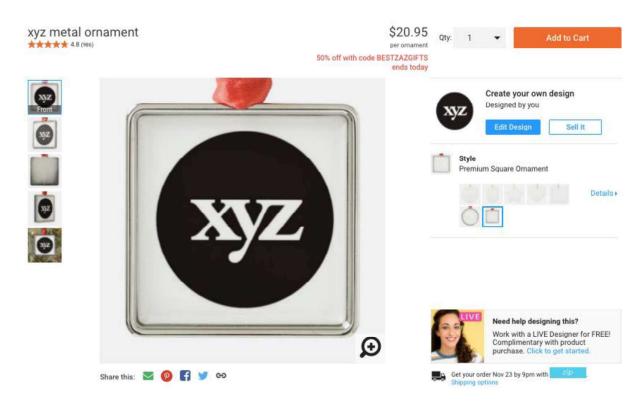






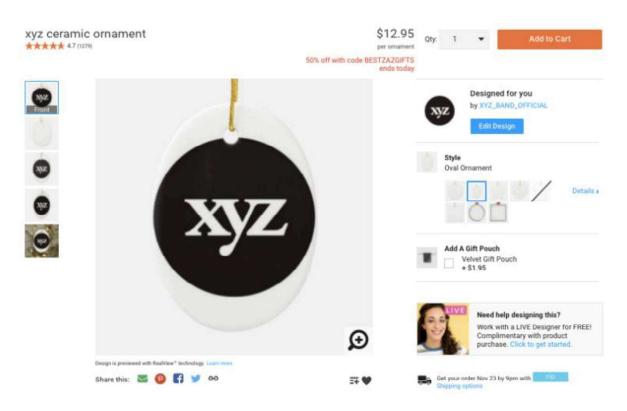
## **JOHN ZOX SPECIMEN**





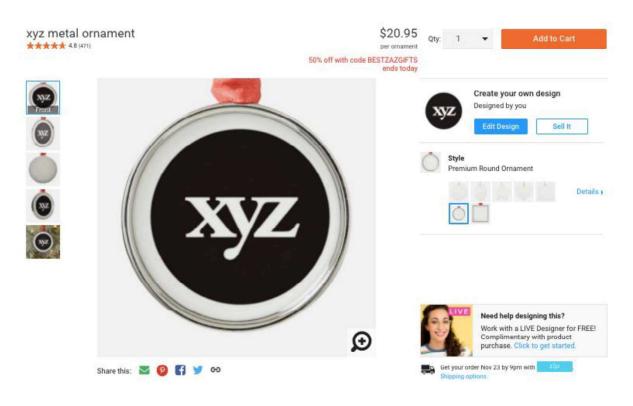
## **JOHN ZOX SPECIMEN**





## **JOHN ZOX SPECIMEN**





## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Amended Notice of Opposition was served upon John Zox' attorney of record by electronic mail on November 23, 2020.

Counsel for Applicant:
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ehuang@lgtrademarklaw.com

Dated: November 23, 2020 /Katherine M. Bond/

Katherine M. Bond, Esq.